



# Montgomery County Council

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Statement by Council President Steve Silverman on Proposed Capital Budget**

I am pleased with the recommended Capital Improvements Program and Capital Budget recommended by the County Executive. I congratulate him and his team on their hard work.

I'm pleased that full funding for the Montrose Parkway is included. We will work to make sure the parkway is built in a way that works for the surrounding community.

It's good that we are moving forward with the Montrose Parkway -- but it's not enough. I will be urging the County Executive to include in his proposed operating budget, to be released on March 15, the purchase of more buses so that we can pursue a truly balanced approach to relieving traffic congestion.

This capital program is good for libraries -- it keeps the new Rockville library on track and moves the new Germantown library ahead by one year.

It preserves our Parks programs and our Legacy Open Space effort.

This enables the school system to pursue their capital needs for the next two years. It does mean, however, that we'll have significant challenges in fiscal years 2005 and 2006 in meeting the critical building needs of our growing system.

I am also concerned about the reduction in Montgomery College's information technology funding from \$55 million to \$3 million. Even though budget times are tough, we can ill afford to shortchange the college in this vital area.

All in all, though, this is a very good start. The Council will take it from here.

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